Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019480 ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USPS-01 EB-08 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 /051 R

DRAFTED BY IO/TRC:HNWEBB:BGR APPROVED BY IO/TRC - W.A. DIAMANTI EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY USPS;HESTOCK NEA/IAI:MSTERNBERG

-----281107Z 080289 /14

R 280136Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION GENEVA INFO AMEMBASSY BERN AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, UPU, UR, IS

SUBJECT: UPU: ISRAELI INFO REQUEST RE MAIL TO SOVIET

JEWS

REF: GENEVA 0216 NOTAL

1. REFTEL REPORTS ISRAELI DCM IN BERN ASKED MISSION GENEVA FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING AN ALLEGED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF MAIL TO SOVIET JEWS AT NOVEMBER MEETING OF UPU'S CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR POSTAL STUDIES (CCPS). MISSION KNEW NOTHING AND ADVISED DCM HAVE ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON CONTACT DEPARTMENT. ISRAELI EMBASSY HAS NOT APPROACHED DEPARTMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 019480

2. INFORMATION IS IN ERROR. REPORT RELATES TO BILATERAL, ON-GOING DISCUSSION BETWEEN US POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) AND SOVIET ADMINISTRATION REGARDING PROBLEMS WHICH U.S. RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE IN SENDING MAIL TO USSR. MOST RECENT APPROACH WAS MADE BY USPS REPRESENTATIVE AT BERN DURING CCPS MEETING BUT MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED BY CCPS. AS

BEFORE, SOVIET RESPONSE WAS IN PART TO JUSTIFY PRESENT ACTIONS AND THEN TO PROMISE TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THE MATTER WITHOUT INDICATING POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING PERFORMANCE. IN ANY CASE USPS WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE ISSUE SO LONG AS LEGITIMATE COMPLAINTS PERSIST.

- 3. IN BRIEF, COMPLAINTS INVOLVE MOSTLY SOVIET JEWS AND CONSIST OF SOVIET RETURN OF ITEMS AS "NONDELIVERABLE" (EVEN CHILDREN'S TOYS ON ONE OCCASION) OR "ADDRESSEE MOVED AWAY" (WHEN US CORRESPONDENTS KNOW THAT ADDRESS IS CORRECT AND MAY EVEN SUCCEED AT LATER DATE IN HAVING MAIL DELIVERED TO THE SAME SOVIET ADDRESS) OR REFUSAL TO DELIVER LARGE QUANTITIES OF MAIL TO SOVIET JEWS ("HARASSMENT FROM PEOPLE THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW"). ONE RECENT EMIGREE HAS HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN SENDING MAIL TO HIS SON AND HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS AN "EVIL MAN" APPARENTLY BECAUSE HE WAS URGING HIS SON TO EMIGRATE.
- 4. DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO MISSION'S INFORMING ISRAELI AUTHORITIES OF ABOVE AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, POSTAL SERVICE, FRAUDS, ALLEGATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE019480
Document Source: COPE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: HNWEBB:BGR Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770031-0337

Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977017/aaaaaghm.tel

Line Count: 83 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: cf8330dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 GENEVA 216

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3640944 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UPU: ISRAELI INFO REQUEST RE MAIL TO SOVIET JEWS

TAGS: ETEL, UR, IS, UPU, CCPS To: GENEVA

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf8330dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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